

June 2004

LYRIC OPERA BREAKS GROUND ON NORTH PARK THEATRE RENOVATIONS

In a historic moment for North Park, Lyric Opera San Diego broke ground Friday, May 21st, on its renovation project that will re-open the North Park Theatre as a live-performance venue and restore it to its original beauty. The event drew in excess of 70 community members and Lyric Opera supporters.

With the seismic retrofit of the theater completed, the City of San Diego officially conveyed the theater to developer Bud Fischer at the end of May.

This represents the fulfillment of the city's promise to North Park. It also represents the fulfillment of my promise to make the revitalization of this theater one of my top 10 priorities. We've protected this theater from demolition all these years, and we are now prepared to convey it into the hands of an organization that will restore it to its former glory, and carry it to new heights as a quality live theater venue for not only this community, but the greater San Diego region.



The groundbreaking for the Lyric Opera's Stephen and Mary Birch North Park Theatre renovation project featured (l to r): Developer Bud Fischer, City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency Director Hank Cunningham, Lyric Opera General Director Leon Natker, Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Deputy Mayor Toni Atkins, and theatre donors Dr. Merle and Teresa Fischlowitz.

Since purchasing the building in 1990 to ensure preservation of this historic landmark, the City of San Diego has committed significant financial and technical assistance toward the redevelopment of the theater. The city's Redevelopment Agency, through the Community and Economic Development Department, will assist with the entire redevelopment project, which includes renovation of the theatre, the development of a 393-space parking garage and a 75-space surface parking lot. This \$20 million investment of city Redevelopment Agency funds represents an investment in a project that will serve as a catalyst for future redevelopment and revitalization efforts in North Park.

The theater, which sits at the corner of 29th Street and University Avenue, has sat dormant for almost two decades. It is scheduled to re-open in late 2005 with the Lyric Opera's performance of "Cinderella."

TASK FORCE CHOOSES SITE FOR DISTRICT THREE FLAGSHIP LIBRARY

On May 27th, the District Three Flagship Library Task Force, by a 10-3 vote, chose the Carter Reese and Associates project on University Avenue between Idaho and Oregon streets in North Park as their official recommendation for the site of the new flagship library for the district.

I want to commend the Task Force for helping us reach this important milestone. They have done a tremendous amount of work over the past year and I think they've weighed each site heavily and made a good selection. I will continue to look to the task force for guidance as this project progresses.



The Carter Reese design for the proposed District Three Flagship Library.

The Carter Reese proposal calls for a multi-level building that would integrate the library with retail space and the new home of Deaf Community Services. In a bold and innovative move, the project is designed to also include approximately 90 units of affordable housing for the deaf to provide a sense of community for the hearing disabled.

I'm impressed with the team that Carter Reese has assembled for this project. Their collective experience with libraries, and stylish urban developments bode well for the future of this project. I am deeply committed to keeping local businesses and residents in North Park, and I urge the developers to work closely with the property owners at this location to ensure that they are treated fairly throughout the entire process.

A second site which was considered but not selected—referred to as the KDL project—would have placed the library on North Park Way at 31st Street. This site would have encompassed the former home of Drowsy Maggie's at University Avenue and 31st Street. It was slated to be a nine-story building with 150 units of affordable housing. The task force voted 10-3 to accept this site as the back-up location for the flagship library should the Carter Reese development fail to materialize.

The current timeline calls for the library to open in 2008. Definitive timelines, however, have yet to be confirmed.

PHOTO GALLERY



(Above) Deputy Mayor Atkins and representatives of Firefighters Local 145 present Mama's Kitchen Executive Director Alberto Cortes with a check for \$2,000 from the firefighters' union. Pictured to the left of Atkins is Mama's Kitchen executive chef Anne Garger.



(Left) City of San Diego employees and recreation council advisors hold a \$7,636 check presented May 24th from the City's Environmental Services Department (ESD) to help improve the Park and Recreation facilities. From left, Ana Carvalho, ESD recycling specialist; Joan Griffin, North Park Recreation Council (NPRC) chairperson; Vicki Granowitz, NPRC vice chairperson; Dave Lee, North Park Recreation Center director; Anna VanRansom-Magana, Adams Recreation Council chairperson; Debra Jones, North Park and Adams area manager; Jeffrey Gattas, chief of staff for Deputy Mayor Toni Atkins (Council District 3).

(Left) Deputy Mayor Atkins is joined by Mayor Dick Murphy in proclaiming May 17th to be San Diego High School Cavers Girls Basketball Team Day in the City of San Diego in honor of the team's outstanding success this season in which they finished second in the state. Also honored was SDHS standout Charde Houston (holding the resolution), who has broken numerous county scoring records and will be attending the University of Connecticut on a basketball scholarship.



MAY COUNCIL ACTIONS IN REVIEW

May 4th: Approved the city's Public Art Master Plan.

May 4th: Approved the North Park Condos Project (La Boheme) proposed for the Rite Aid site on 30th Street. There will be 224 residential units as part of this mixed-use project that will also include retail space. Twenty percent of the units will be affordable.

May 4th: Awarded construction contracts to Metro Builders and Engineering LTD for the Mid-City Transit Gateways Project Phase 2. The \$3,193,592 will pay for enhancements to the bridge decks over I-15 at University Avenue and El Cajon Boulevard which include lighted transit shelters, restrooms and seating.

May 10th: Approved a \$100,000 Grant Application for State Proposition 40 Funding for additional improvements to the Old Trolley Barn Park Neighborhood Park play area in University Heights.

May 11th: Approved the extension of the Regional Fire Rescue Helicopter Program for an additional six months at a cost of \$1,285,206.

May 17th: Declared Monday, May 17th, to be San Diego High School Cavers Girls Basketball Day and Charde Houston Day in the City of San Diego in honor of the team's tremendous accomplishments this year (see related photo above).

May 18th: Approved the new collection services re-routing and greenery expansion project. The program will go from weekly to bi-weekly citywide, alternating with regular recycling. This change will save as much as \$1 million a year in existing collection costs, which will allow us to expand greenery recycling citywide within the next 18 months.

DEPUTY MAYOR ATKINS ALLOCATES \$10,000 FOR RSVP PROGRAM



Ursula Freeman of Mid-City



Donna Bullock of Central



Jean Williams of Mid-City

At the recent graduation ceremony of 21 new Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol officers, I was honored to present Police Chief William Lansdowne with a check for \$10,000 to help fund new uniforms and equipment for the RSVP officers. The funds are part of our District Three Community Development Block Grant allocations for Fiscal Year 2005.



Deputy Mayor Atkins presents Chief Lansdowne with a \$10,000 check for the RSVP program.



Beatrice Avina of Mid-City

Seventh District Councilmember Jim Madaffer and I got the chance to personally congratulate the graduates, some of whom (pictured at left and right) will serve the neighborhoods covered by the Mid-City and Central divisions of the San Diego Police Department.

The RSVP program is an invaluable asset to our neighborhoods, and that's why I try to give them funding when it's needed. We would never be able to pay for the types of free services they provide to our city, such as performing home vacation checks, taking accident reports, and directing traffic at major community events. Our police senior volunteer program is the largest in the nation, with more than 500 active volunteers—so the next time you see one of our volunteers out on the streets, please take a moment to greet them and thank them for their service to our city!



Jessie Sergent of Mid-City

UPCOMING DISTRICT THREE STREET FAIRS, PARADES, CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS

Old House Fair

South Park, 30th and Beech streets
Saturday, June 12
10am-7pm
Contact: 619/233-6679

17th Annual International Summer Organ Festival

June 21-August 30
Monday evenings at 7:30pm
Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park
June 21: Pre-festival concert with Robert Plimpton
June 28: Opening night, Dr. Carol Williams, Civic Organist

North Park Community Association Summer Concerts 2004

Saturdays, 6-8pm
June 26th, Bird Park: The Freemonts
July 17th, Bird Park: Ismael the Peacemaker with Dubsquad
July 31st, Bird Park: The San Diego Cajun Playboys
August 7th, North Park Community Park: Los Alacranes
August 21st, Bird Park: Eve Selis
For more information, go to: www.northparksd.org

LGBT Pride Rally, Parade, Festival

Rally, Spreckels Organ Pavilion: Friday, July 30, 7:30pm
Parade, Hillcrest, University Ave. between Normal Street and Sixth Avenue: Saturday, July 31, 11am
Festival, Balboa Park at Sixth Ave. and Ivy St.: Sat., July 31, Noon -10pm, Sun., Aug. 1, 11am-8pm
Contact: 619/297-7683

CityFest

Hillcrest, Fifth Ave. between University Ave. and Upas St.
Sunday, August 8
10am-7pm
Contact: 619/299-3330

Adams Avenue Street Fair

Adams Avenue between Felton and 35th streets
Saturday, September 25, 10am-9pm
Sunday, September 26, 10am-6pm
Contact: 619/563-0034

AIDS Walk

Balboa Park, Sixth Avenue and Quince Street
Sunday, September 26, 7am-Noon
Contact: 619/291-9255

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

How To Contact Us

Deputy Mayor Toni Atkins
202 C Street, MS #10A
San Diego, CA 92101
Telephone: (619) 236-6633
Fax: (619) 595-1481
Email: ToniAtkins@sandiego.gov
TTY: (619) 533-6586

MONTHLY DISTRICT THREE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Balboa Park Committee

Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club (Off Presidents Way west of Park Blvd.)
Meets the first Thursday of the month, 6:30pm
Contact: Darlene Davies, chair: ddavies@mail.sdsu.edu

City Heights Planning Committee

4310 Landis Street, 2nd Floor
Meets the first Monday of the Month, 6:30pm
Contact: Michael Sprague, Chair, 619/255-7902.

Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (GGHPC)

Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse, Golden Hill
Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm
Contact: Steven Stratman, Chair, 619/702-6055.

Greater North Park Community Planning Committee

North Park Christian Fellowship, Second Floor, 2901 North Park Way
Meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm.
Contact: Michael Powers, Chair, 619/280-5184, or email mppvette@cox.net

Kensington/Talmadge Planning Group

Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive
Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm.
Contact: Fred Lindahl, Chair, 619/287-3157.

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

4649 Hawley Boulevard
Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm
Contact: Risa Baron, Chair, 619/284-2505.

Uptown Planners

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1010 University Avenue
Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Contact: David Gardner, Chair, 619/835-9501.

MONTHLY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Adams Avenue Business Association

4649 Hawley Boulevard
Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30am
Contact: 619/282-7329

City Heights Business Association

Board meetings: second Tuesday of every month at 8am
at the Indo-Chinese Association, 4536 University Avenue.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5588, San Diego, CA 92165
Phone: 619/540-4410

El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Asso.

3727 El Cajon Boulevard
Meets the second Thursday of the month, 5:30pm
Contact: 619/283-3608

Hillcrest Association

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1222 Vermont Street in the
Uptown District
Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 5:00pm
Contact: 619/299-3330.

North Park Main Street

3076 University Avenue
Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:30am
Contact: 619/294-2501

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS

Rick Castro (City Heights East) -- 619/515-2733
Rick Edgil (Hillcrest) -- 619/299-7028
Gary Gonzales (Golden Hill, South Park) -- 619/744-9500
Ed LaVelle (North Park, University Heights) -- 619/533-5795
Pat Norris (Fairmount Park) -- 619/531-1515
Bill Taitano (Normal Hgts., Kensington/Talmadge) -- 619/531-2383
Jim Tulumello (City Heights West) -- 619/516-3180

MONTHLY REDEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

City Heights Project Area Committee

3795 Fairmount Ave., Weingart Library-Community Room
Meets the second Monday of the month, 6pm
Contact: Al Stasukevich, Chair, 619/285-1611.

North Park Project Area Committee

North Park Community Service Center, 3956 30th St.
Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm
Contact: Roger Lewis, Chair, at 619/881-8977,
or the city staff member at 619/533-5284.

District Three Staff

Jeff Gattas, Chief of Staff

George Biagi, Director of Communications, media, webpage, newsletter, Community Development Block Grant coordinator, LGBT community liaison, HIV/AIDS issues, Chargers, special events.

Kim Craig, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to Normal Heights, Rules Committee, infrastructure, docket coordinator, utilities, energy, budget, women's issues.

Stephen Hill, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to Balboa Park, South Park, Golden Hill, environment, libraries, arts and culture, Downtown redevelopment, MSCP, Transit Occupancy Tax, water issues, budget.

Cheli Mohamed, Confidential Assistant to Deputy Mayor Atkins and the Chief of Staff, office manager, scheduler, volunteer coordinator.

Ryan O'Connor, Constituent Services Representative, assists council representatives with constituent services, correspondence, data entry, and administrative support.

Monica Pelaez, Council Representative to Hillcrest, University Heights, Kensington, Talmadge, Police and Fire and Life Safety Services, schools, Equal Employment Opportunity, and ADA issues.

Stephen Russell, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to City Heights, redevelopment, Small Business Advisory Board, Development Services, Community and Economic Development, BID Council, SANDAG, budget.

Diana Spyridonidis, Council Representative to North Park, housing, homeless, domestic violence, Workforce Partnership, MTS, seniors, social service issues, pension.